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In 1973 the British Columbia Legislature had the wisdom to recognize the importance of preserving our agricultural land base. The Land Commission Act was far-sighted legislation that established Agricultural Land Reserves and put in place regulation to manage the conservation of the resource.

—Niels Holbek

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The Agricultural Land Commission and ALR have achieved major success over the last 25 years. However, the intense tensions between local and Provincial goals, urban and agricultural clashes, fuelled by growth of BC from four to eight million people, will continue in the next 25 years.

—Michael Harcourt

INTRODUCTION

For over 25 years the Agricultural Land Commission has been responsible for preserving and protecting BC's limited farmland. It has provided advice on land use planning to local communities, adjudicated applications for the use of land in the ALR and encouraged farming to provide a basis for a sustainable economy and a secure source of food. The ALR now comprises five percent of BC's land mass, or 4.7 million hectares.

The Forest Land Commission was established in 1994 to minimize the impact of urban development and rural settlement on BC's commercial forest land base. It has adjudicated applications for the use of private managed forest lands and reviewed proposals to add or remove private land from the FLR. The FLC has also advised the Minister of Forests on proposals to remove Crown land from the FLR, and administered the private forest practices regulation.

In June of 1999 the Provincial government enacted legislation to combine the Agricultural Land Commission and the Forest Land Commission into a single body, called the *Land Reserve Commission*. This came into effect April 1, 2000. The two reserves—the ALR and the FLR—continue to be managed under their respective legislation.

This initiative—one Commission with two Reserves—provides additional streamlining in administration while maintaining the integrity of the land reserves.

The objects of the Land Reserve Commission are:

- to protect the integrity of the agricultural land base and working forest land base in BC
- to work with owners, local governments, First Nations, the governments of BC and Canada and other communities of interest in achieving its object
- to assist in the accommodation, support and encouragement of farming, forestry and agro-forestry on agricultural reserve lands and forest reserve lands
- to provide recommendations to the responsible ministers to protect and strengthen the land reserve system in BC.

For the ALR, the mandate of the Commission is to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming. For the FLR, the mandate is to minimize the impact of urban and rural development on forest reserve lands. Both mandates call on the Commission to work cooperatively with local governments, landowners, First Nations and other communities of interest. The Commission has land use regulatory authority for both Crown and private lands in the ALR, and for private land in the FLR. The use of Crown FLR land is regulated under other legislation with the Commission providing comments and recommendations to Cabinet on Crown FLR additions and deletions.

CONTEXT

A number of significant changes were made to land use planning and resource management processes in BC in the late 1990s. The *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* protects farmers' right to farm and provides guidelines for local government zoning in farm areas. The Act tries to foster cooperation and provides a process for dispute resolution between farm and non-farm residents on both sides of the ALR boundary.

The Province, together with stakeholders, has been actively engaged in Crown land planning to establish priorities for the use of Crown lands. These processes help to provide land use certainty in the vast areas of the province owned by the Province and are complementary to the work of the Commission. Land and Resource Management Planning has led to recommendations for inclusions and exclusions to the ALR and FLR.

Under the Growth Strategies legislation the Province gave local governments the tools to implement regional plans to manage growth. With amendments to the *Municipal Act,* local governments are being given broader powers to deal with existing and new responsibilities. In 1996 the Provincial government entered into a protocol agreement with the Union of BC Municipalities that recognized local governments as an independent order of government. The Province remains committed to working cooperatively with local elected representatives.

In 1999 the Provincial government clarified the 'provincial interest' section of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* following a report by a Commissioner of Inquiry into the Six Mile Ranch application. Under these amendments the "preservation of agricultural land as a scarce and important Provincial asset" was established as a provincial interest. In addition, more open and inclusive processes were established for declaring a matter to be in the 'provincial interest' and for guiding decision-making in these cases.

In April 2000 the Commission was given responsibility for overseeing forest practice regulation for private managed forest lands in the FLR and ALR. The performance-based standards provide for the protection of four key values: fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and soil conservation.

Other initiatives of government impacting on the work of the Commission include new fish protection legislation, waste management legislation and many new policies and programs to more efficiently deliver government services. Taken together these many initiatives underlie government's intention to work cooperatively with the public and others in maintaining economic opportunity, protecting resources and building healthy communities for all British Columbians.

> *Ninety-eight percent of the world's food comes from the land...Ever more people and rising material standards mean even greater pressure upon foodlands.*
>
> —William Rees

Mission

The Land Reserve Commission is an independent Provincial agency dedicated to protecting the integrity of the agricultural and forest land base to meet the current and future needs of British Columbia. The legislation regulates land use in the Agricultural Land Reserve and Forest Land Reserve. The Commission works with various communities of interest to accommodate and support working farms and working forests on Reserve lands.

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> *British Columbia farm products will become increasingly important as imported products become less available. Local production will gain market advantage as real transportation costs rise significantly.*
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> —Niels Holbek

Strategic Planning Process

Information gathering and consultations for the strategic plan were organized around three activities:

- six 'vision papers' prepared by resource management experts
- over 100 consultations, including personal interviews, with stakeholders representing various communities of interest
- staff and Commission workshops and meetings.

The vision papers were prepared in the Fall of 1998 and released in December. While their focus was on agriculture and foodlands, some of the themes and messages can be extrapolated to include resource lands in general. The writers agreed that increasing competition for scarce resources, both globally and locally, would provide expanded opportunities for BC agriculture and forestry which enjoy protected land bases. Growing populations in British Columbia and around the world, coupled with rising living standards everywhere, will increase the markets for land–based food, fibre and fuel products, thus placing BC's agricultural and forestry sectors in position to grow and prosper. At the same time, strong growth in these sectors will contribute to the Provincial goals of economic, social and environmental sustainability and healthy communities.

Strategic plan consultations involved personal meetings with more than 100 stakeholders, including 65 municipal mayors and regional district chairs. In addition, Commission staff met with representatives of agricultural, forestry and environmental organizations, various Ministry and other public agency staff, and business and academic communities.

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While opinions in these meetings were diverse, there was considerable support for a continuing Provincial role in the protection of resource lands. Many participants stressed the need to look at ways to improve the operation of the land reserve system while maintaining Provincial zoning authority.

In the Commission and staff workshops, discussion focused on the new mandate, roles and responsibilities of the Land Reserve Commission and how it could best serve its clients and the public. In light of the increased responsibilities of the Land Reserve Commission, together with limited resources, it was important to establish priorities for both business and strategic planning.

Farms and Forests for the Future outlines the major issues facing the Commission in its work, establishes strategic directions and suggests action steps to achieve these goals. The plan spans the five-year period 2000 to 2005. It also provides specific direction for the current and upcoming one-year business plans.

KEY THEMES: THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

The Land Reserve Commission has identified three main areas of responsibility which reflect its legislated mandate. In these three areas, the Commission's roles and responsibilities vary; however, all contribute toward the goal of protecting resource lands for present and future generations. The three areas are:

- 'Preserving the Land Base'—the LRC's role as a regulator of Provincial land use zones—the ALR and private land FLR
- 'Supporting Working Farms and Working Forests'—the Commission's role as an advocate for agriculture and forestry in partnership with others
- 'Keeping Resource Options Open'—the LRC's role as a long-term land and resource manager in collaboration with others.

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The initial patterns have generally dictated that growth expands in existing settlement areas. Therefore population growth and agricultural production are most often competing for the same land base.

—Niels Holbek

> *Even assuming no net impact of climate change on agricultural production, it is clear that forest land, grasslands and existing croplands—rural landscapes in general—will face an unprecedented worldwide onslaught to satisfy growing human needs.*
>
> —William Rees

1. *Resource Protection—'Preserving the Land Base'*

The core business of the Commission is to protect the land base for agriculture and forest use. The key tool is the zoning authority for the ALR and private FLR and associated regulations; this is supplemented by policies, General Orders and the body of precedents created by past decisions. The Commission does not have land use regulatory authority for Crown FLR land but acts in an advisory capacity. A second tool is the authority to review local government plans and bylaws to ensure consistency with the *Land Reserve Commission Act* and regulations. There are also additional tools available for use by local governments and approving officers (e.g. *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* and *Land Title Act*) to help protect the land base and to plan for agriculture.

2. *Resource Utilization—'Supporting Working Farms and Working Forests'*

Another core business is to assist various communities of interest (including landowners and governments) to support, encourage and accommodate farming and forestry on Reserve lands. The primary tool is the review of community plans and bylaws to ensure consistency with the Acts, regulations, Commission policies and General Orders. Additional process tools include communication, advice and education for Commissioners, staff, local government officials and other stakeholders. Planning for agriculture has increasingly been viewed by many local governments as a way to enhance economic stability and create healthy communities—this approach is actively encouraged by the Commission.

3. *Resource Security—'Keeping Resource Options Open'*

Resource security involves protecting the productive capacity in agriculture and forestry for future British Columbians. Recent trade agreements have removed or reduced trade barriers; the resulting increase in competition affects farm and forest profitability. Consolidation of processing and retailing activities has also negatively impacted the ability of many primary producers to process and sell their products. Many producers are faced with shrinking margins as costs rise, infrastructure is lost and prices are stable or in decline. There is a growing need to encourage diversity of size, scale and products from our forests and farms.

At the same time, consumer choices and markets have greatly diversified, expanded and fragmented. Farm and forestry operators now face increased public demands for greater social and environmental accountability. New and more detailed regulations in the environmental, labour and health areas impose additional burdens on those operating in resource–based businesses.

The tools to protect the long–term resource values of agricultural and forest lands include a number of Provincial and Federal policies and programs of several ministries and agencies with land and resource responsibilities. Local governments and First Nations also play important roles.

Under the broad objectives of 'resource utilization' and 'resource security' the Commission does not wish to duplicate the advocacy roles of other agencies such as the agriculture and forestry ministries, but rather to complement them.

ISSUES AND PRIORITIES

Key issues facing the Land Reserve Commission in the years ahead were identified through the consultation process and Commission workshops. Those issues which were most frequently and strongly raised were identified as priorities and summarized below. They are organized under three broad objectives:

1. ***Resource Protection (core business)***
   In this area, the Commission has the lead responsibility for administering Provincial land use zones—the ALR and private land FLR.

2. ***Resource Utilization (core business)***
   The Commission has shared responsibility for encouraging farm and forest uses on Reserve lands.

3. ***Resource Security***
   In this area, the Commission collaborates with other ministries, agencies, governments and communities of interest to help achieve long–term sustainability goals.

> *Increasing environmental awareness by the general public and evolving regulatory standards mean additional management constraints compared to past practices. In some cases, additional costs of production are the result.*
>
> —George E. Penfold

1. *Resource Protection*

- Commission roles and responsibilities are expanding; the current organizational structure needs to be assessed to ensure the mandate is efficiently and effectively carried out
- various options to streamline administration of the Reserves need investigation; delegation to Chief Executive Officer (staff) and/or local governments may contribute to streamlining and reduce time demands on the Commission
- need for additional resources for audit and enforcement functions of the Commission for both ALR and FLR
- 'one size does not fit all'—in response to the demand for more consideration of local and regional circumstances, alternative ways of decision-making and administration need investigation
- development pressures are higher in some areas (Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and Okanagan) than others; the possibility of different approaches to decision-making in different areas needs consideration
- application processing and review of plans and bylaws by the Commission should meet standards for efficiency, effectiveness, consistency and fairness
- expanded roles and information needs require continual updating of Commission information systems.

2. *Resource Utilization*

- tools are available to local governments to plan for agriculture; the means and methods of encouraging and supporting the use of these tools are a priority
- the relation between compact communities and the protection of resource lands is unevenly understood across the province and results in resistance to increased density in some areas; the Commission may have an opportunity for an enhanced role in communication and education
- currently there is shared responsibility between the Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF), through the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* for oversight of planning and development control in ALR; an opportunity exists to monitor and improve the process for plan and bylaw reviews under this model

> "*Agricultural productivity gains will, for the most part, be limited to either expanding per unit productivity on the existing land base, or utilizing more marginal and sensitive lands.*
>
> —Niels Holbek

- the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries has indicated an interest in creating a Ministry position to assist local governments in locating non–Reserve lands for development; the Commission can provide advice on how this can be implemented to support its mandate

- agro–forestry is part of the new Land Reserve Commission mandate; the Commission needs to identify how to encourage and promote this use in both Reserves

- local governments, which are under pressure to generate revenues, sometimes implement policies and regulations which negatively impact the businesses of farming and forestry (e.g. taxation rates, water irrigation rates, reduced investment in infrastructure needed for farm use such as drainage)

- local governments are under pressure to restrict uses which create nuisance (noise, traffic, etc.) and to respond to the perceived loss of environmental values

- planning and development regulation is uneven (e.g. many areas are without appropriate bylaws) and regulations affecting farm and forest businesses are inconsistent and variable across jurisdictions and between regions

- other ministries, agencies and groups share responsibility for industry development and regulation, among them, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and the Ministry of Forests (MOF); the partnerships between the Commission and these ministries can be examined in relation to the revised mandate of the LRC

- water is critical for agriculture; the Commission needs to determine what role it can play to ensure water of sufficient quantity and quality is available for agriculture, while respecting fish and environmental values

- public understanding of, and support for, food and timber production on Reserve lands, are critical to success in these sectors; many participants in the consultation process identified the need for improved education of the public and elected representatives

- there is a need to establish better contact with, and eventually work more closely with First Nations to encourage utilization of lands suited to farm use, ranching and timber production; and there is an opportunity to encourage First Nations planning and development regulation to protect resource values.

> *In the competition for water, agriculture is rarely the winner. However without adequate irrigation water, much of British Columbia agriculture will be threatened.*
>
> —Niels Holbek

It would be short–sighted in the extreme to expect that currently abundant and low–cost food imports will continue to be available inexpensively to British Columbia over the next twenty–five years.

—Niels Holbek

3. *Resource Security*

- protecting the right to farm and the right to harvest is critical to creating an environment where economic success is feasible over the long–term
- society needs to recognize that landowners in both Reserves also manage for other values; there is a need to encourage land management activities to meet sustainability objectives
- sustainable agriculture and forestry are long–term objectives; coordinated policies and programs of several agencies and the support of stakeholders are needed
- there is a trend for producers to diversify and add value to primary products; Commission policies to encourage and support producers in response to this trend need continuing work
- necessary requirements other than land such as water, infrastructure and market access are critical success factors for agriculture and forestry; however these responsibilities are shared with other agencies
- Reserve lands are increasingly being used for disposal of wastes; Commission policy is needed to address potential positive and negative impacts
- the regulation of public (e.g. environmental) values on private lands can reduce management options and hence profitability; processes such as the Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment and the FLR performance–based standards of practice can provide models for the resolution of other resource conflicts
- the developing Provincial agri–food policy should address many of these long–term issues in agriculture; the Commission continues to support the development of this policy and the development of an implementation strategy
- there is a need to coordinate existing forest strategies and to develop a comprehensive long–term Provincial strategy for the private land forest sector; the LRC can act as an advocate with government and stakeholders
- there is a critical need for improved understanding by the public and decision–makers of the need to protect resource lands over the long term; the Commission's communications strategy and resources need increased focus.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND ACTION STEPS

The following strategic directions and action steps provide a context and outline for the work of the Land Reserve Commission in the next five-year period, 2000 to 2005. The Commission will continue its work in preserving the land base. It will re-allocate resources to help encourage farming and forestry in the working landscapes of the ALR and FLR in cooperation with many communities of interest. It will also collaborate with a large number of stakeholders including local communities and governments, in keeping options open for the sustainable use of our land and water resources over the long term. The Business Plans (2000-2001 and subsequent years) will provide details of implementation for the directions established in this strategic plan.

Resource Protection:

Strategic Direction 1: Protect the integrity of the agricultural and working forest land base.

Action Steps:

1. Continue to work to ensure that Reserve boundaries accurately reflect the lands that should appropriately be protected.
2. Continue to work to ensure that Commission policies, regulations and orders protect forest and agriculture use of Reserve lands and recognize appropriate compatible uses.
3. Continue to work with local governments, ministries and agencies to develop and incorporate policies and plans which protect agricultural and forest values on Reserve lands and which are consistent with the legislation.
4. Further develop and continue to use in decision-making the 'net benefit to agriculture' policy framework and expand it to apply to forestry and agro-forestry uses.
5. Investigate the inter-relationship between parcel size, potential impacts from development and the sustainability of farms and working forests on Reserve lands.
6. With the ministries of agriculture and forestry and other stakeholders, advocate for new legislation to better protect soil resources on Reserve lands.
7. Provide data in electronic form on the state of the Land Reserves for Commission use and for the public, Provincial and local governments and others.

> *In a world of increasingly multi-national control of the food system and diminished national and provincial authority, the industry will require resolve, the government political will, and the consumer far greater awareness of the impacts of food choices if farmers are to be profitable and remain on the land.*
>
> —Niels Holbek

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The ALR exists as a matter of choice in British Columbia; with or without demographic change the future of the ALR will be determined by political will, directly by public policy decisions with respect to the ALR, and indirectly by such decisions concerning land use outside the ALR.

—David Baxter

Strategic Direction 2: Strengthen and enhance the Provincial Land Reserve system by increasing operational responsiveness and accountability.

Action Steps:

1. Develop a governance policy to address Commission operations.

2. Develop and implement proposals for operational changes to enhance decision-making responsiveness and accountability
   - staff organizational structure: assess ways to meet regional expectations and increase responsiveness; assess division of responsibilities between research officers and planners
   - delegation of decision-making authority: for ALR lands, pro-actively pursue delegation of land use and subdivision decision authority to local governments under voluntary agreements (complete delegation policy framework and undertake to delegate to one or more local governments in first year)
   - explore options for decision-making structure: use of Commission panels; use of delegation to Chief Executive Officer; internal re-organization
   - develop guidelines around internal application and plan and bylaw reviews
   - increase opportunities for applicants to appear before the Commission by holding hearings in regions for some subdivision and land use applications
   - identify areas for streamlining through existing regulations (e.g. permitted uses), policies and general orders.

3. Enhance monitoring and enforcement of compliance with Commission regulations and decisions through partnerships with local governments and other regulatory authorities.

Strategic Direction 3: Implement operational changes to reflect the existing and changed roles and responsibilities of the Land Reserve Commission.

Action Steps:

1. Investigate, assess and implement the organizational changes needed to effectively carry out new responsibilities for private land forest practice standards.

2. Develop and assess options for a regional model versus a central model organization.
   - enhance Commission meeting opportunities in regions with improved availability, scheduling and notification
   - provide for increased research and planning officer staff time in regions at regularly scheduled times
   - investigate options for locating some staff in regional offices and whether additional resources to implement are available
   - design the use of Commission panels to provide additional regional/ local presence.

3. Provide additional resources to monitor, audit and enforce compliance with Land Reserve legislation and private forest practice regulations (FLR).
   - locate FLR enforcement staff in regional Ministry offices
   - have enforcement staff monitor compliance with the *Agricultural Land Reserve Act*, *Forest Land Reserve Act* and *Soil Conservation Act* and regulations, and report to the Commission on a regular basis.

4. Investigate objectives and possible methods of achieving more policy and regulatory congruency between the ALR and FLR.

Resource Utilization:

Strategic Direction 4: Continue to work with communities of interest to create an environment in which working farms and working forests can succeed, complementary with other resource users.

Action Steps:

1. Encourage comprehensive planning for agriculture and forestry at all levels.
   - develop a strategy for earlier involvement in local government (municipal and regional) planning processes
   - assess ways to better communicate the Commission's mandate as input to strategic planning processes such as Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP)
   - increase Commission participation in open space, transportation and utility planning where there are impacts on resource use of Reserve lands.

2. Continue to encourage local government planning and development control which supports diversified agricultural and forestry use of Reserve lands.

3. Improve the coordination of the shared planning and bylaw review process with the agriculture ministry staff and continue to undertake these reviews for local government.

4. Commit to assisting in the implementation of those recommendations of the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries which complement the Commission's mandate and which are within the Commission's areas of responsibilities.

5. Provide recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and others, following tabling of the Select Standing Committee's Report, on legislative and other changes needed to implement the Committee's recommendations in support of agriculture.

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There are new opportunities emerging in tourism that could benefit rural resource areas. For example, soft adventure tourism is growing rapidly in BC. Providing opportunities for small-scale on-farm camping and bed and breakfast accommodation is one opportunity, especially in areas near existing and new Provincial parks and protected areas.

—George E. Penfold

> *Development of new opportunities at the margins of current types and methods of production will require some flexibility and acceptance of risk not only by producers, but also by policy-makers and by those who implement policy.*
>
> —George E. Penfold

6. Support rural development initiatives that provide for economic diversification together with and complementary to agriculture and forestry.

7. Help provide information on agriculture and forestry contributions to rural economies.

Strategic Direction 5: Act as an advocate for farmers and forest operators with local governments and other communities of interest.

Action Steps:

1. Build relationships with communities of interest, including Agricultural Advisory Committees, by attending selected meetings, inviting observers to Commission hearings and enhancing communications generally.

2. Continue to support legislation and regulations which protect the right to farm and the right to harvest on Reserve lands.

3. Schedule regular meetings with agriculture and forestry organizations and local governments to discuss issues in support of agriculture, forestry and agro-forestry.

4. Review existing agreements with local governments and agencies to enhance service delivery, and identify opportunities for potential new partnership agreements.

5. Support planning for agriculture and forestry by advocating on behalf of local governments for funding requests and sharing examples of successful plans and strategies.

6. Encourage government to create a position of a Provincial Land Reserve Advocate to work with local governments to help identify economic opportunities for agriculture and forestry and to help develop and implement strategies to reduce development impacts on Reserve lands.

7. Advocate for improved coordination of existing forestry policies and determine the need for development of a Provincial strategy for the private land forest sector to include incentives for private forest management for sustainable use and the protection of other forest values.

Strategic Direction 6: Increase understanding of, and support for, the needs of working farms and working forests on Reserve lands.

Action Steps:

1. Prepare and implement a communications strategy for the Land Reserve Commission.
2. Undertake client/stakeholder research to determine public understanding of the Commission's work and identify key communications needs and messages.
3. Publicize Commission meetings and key decisions in the regions, and encourage the use of the Commission website as a source of information and feedback.
4. Continue to communicate Commission activities and related research through publications, the annual report, website and other tools.
5. Consider partnering with others to support research on agriculture and forestry resource management issues and disseminate the results through workshops and communication pieces.

Resource Security:

Strategic Direction 7: Promote the long-term management of land and water resources needed for sustainable agriculture and forestry for future generations.

Action Steps:

1. Advocate for the development of a Provincial strategy and policy for the management and allocation of water resources with the recognition of agriculture as a priority user.
2. Advocate for policies and programs which recognize the social and environmental benefits provided by landowners of forest and agricultural Reserve lands.
3. Work with stakeholders and communities of interest to assess and develop options to encourage inter-generational transfers of Reserve lands in support of working farms and forests.
4. Work with the Provincial government and stakeholders to amend legislation, policies and programs to help 'level the playing field' for farm and forest operators on Reserve lands.

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Global change increases the uncertainty that dogs decision-making in all aspects of life and no realm of human activity is likely to be more affected than agriculture.

—William Rees

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The warming of the Earth's surface over the next hundred years due to human-induced greenhouse gases will probably be greater than any that has occurred in the last 10,000 years, the period over which civilization developed.

—William Rees

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There is potential to significantly increase the area in leases for grazing, botanical and other forms of plant production on new cut blocks.

—George E. Penfold

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Given global and local trends...it is not only sensible for British Columbia to preserve its land base and associated productive resources, it is a global responsibility.

—Niels Holbek

Strategic Direction 8: Encourage diversification (including agro-forestry opportunities) and value-added activities within the farm and forestry sectors.

Action Steps:

1. Work with other communities of interest in support of the objective to diversify and add value to primary products while, at the same time, respecting the mandate to preserve the land base.
2. Review Commission regulations, policies and General Orders to assess compatibility with diversification and value-added objectives.
3. Develop specific methods, including regulatory changes, to encourage value-added activities such as processing, agri-tourism and demonstration forestry, agro-forestry and agriculture projects, on Reserve lands.
4. Work with others to assure the necessary infrastructure for agriculture and forestry.

Strategic Direction 9: Work with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and others to encourage the protection and utilization of resource lands by First Nations.

Action Steps:

1. In treaty negotiations, continue to advocate for the position that preserving resource values in agriculture and forestry is an important Provincial and First Nations interest.
2. Devise a strategy to establish more contact with First Nations in areas of important resource lands and establish priority areas where communications efforts may yield the best results for the Commission's mandate.
3. Provide information to First Nations on the resource capability and suitability of Agricultural and Forest Reserve lands within their jurisdiction.
4. When requested, work with First Nations to encourage the protection and utilization of agricultural and forest lands, both on Indian Reserve and treaty settlement lands.

The Land Reserve Strategic Plan will direct the work of the Land Reserve Commission between the years 2000 and 2005. It may be reviewed or amended by the Commission at any time. The Plan provides direction for the annual business plans which establish more specific objectives, actions and performance measures for the Commission office.

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The quotes from the plan are taken from the Commission Vision Papers prepared by six resource experts. The full text of the papers is available on the Commission's website.